

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 08375 201243Z

44

ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 ADP-00 EUR-06 L-03 SY-10 M-03 A-01

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R 201237Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2763

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

UNCLAS LONDON 08375

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: COURIER MISUNDERSTANDING - LONDON AIRPORT

COURIER JOHN DURBIN, IN PROCEEDING FROM LONDON TO DUBLIN ON THE REGULAR WEEKLY COURIER EXCHANGE, WAS CONFRONTED WITH UNUSUAL SITUATION WHEN PILOT OF BRITISH AIRWAYS FLIGHT INSISTED THAT COURIER BAG BE PLACED IN CAPTAIN'S CABIN. THE MATTER WAS IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO BRITISH AIRWAYS OFFICIALS AND TO THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE. ON JULY 18 THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AT THE FCO CALLED TO APOLOGIZE. THE ACTIONS OF THE BEA CAPTAIN WERE "INCORRECT AND INEXCUSABLE" AND HE HAD BEEN REPRIMANDED FOR HIS OVER-ZEALOUS STEPS TAKEN AS PART OF HIS EFFORTS TO ENFORCE STRICT SECURITY REQUIREMENTS. THE FOREIGN OFFICE ASSURES THE EMBASSY THAT THE INCIDENT WAS A ONE-TIME AFFAIR AND WILL NOT OCCUR AGAIN. THIS ASSURANCE SEEMS TO HAVE FULL VALIDITY FOR COURIER DURBIN HAD NO DIFFICULTY ON HIS RETURN FLIGHT FROM DUBLIN OR ON HIS REGULARLY SCHEDULED FLIGHT TO LISBON THE NEXT DAY. BRITISH OFFICIALS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MOST CONSIDERATE ABOUT OUR COURIER ACTIVITIES AND THE EMBASSY IS CONFIDENT WE CAN COUNT ON FULL AND CONTINUING COOPERATION.

ANNENBERG

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